

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly Newscast

September 6th, 2013

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. senior	a) not working well; lacking in quality or quantity
	2. show up	b) order or organization in which something is done
	3. poor	c) to be given a job by a specific company
	4. checked on	d) to give; to make available
	5. employed	e) elder or older person (over the age of 65)
	6. private	f) companies
	7. process	g) having many problems
	8. agencies	h) to arrive or visit
	9. provide	i) not owned by the government
	10. flawed	j) look at to make sure everything is okay

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

opposition parties: political parties (groups) that are not the ruling party. They still have a role in the government and they represent people in the province.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. An Edmonton woman says she was alone on the floor for nine hours _____.	a) after her home-care worker did not show up. b) after her home-care worker left her house.
2. Marie Chamberland, who is _____ years old, lives in a seniors home.	a) 78 b) 87
3. Marie Chamberland has lung cancer and _____.	a) very little money b) poor eyesight
4. Over the Labour Day long weekend, she fell out of bed and _____.	a) the home-care worker left her house. b) no one checked on her.
5. The home-care worker is employed by the _____ CBI Home Health.	a) private company b) well-known agency
6. Earlier this year, the province chose new agencies to provide home-care services. Opposition parties say _____.	a) this process was flawed from the start. b) this process began with flaws but is now okay.

Discussion Questions

Many seniors in Alberta live in senior homes. They may have home-care workers or family members check on them. Where do seniors live in your country? Who takes care of seniors?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) kicked off	a) city downtown
	2) professional	b) bike riders bicycle athletes
	3) urban	c) highly skilled employed
	4) rural	d) global people from around the world
	5) cyclists	e) started began
	6) organizers	f) countryside village
	7) international	g) creators managers

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Tour of Alberta begins next week.
2. ____ This is not the first international professional cycling race held in Canada.
3. ____ Tour of Alberta is a six day race.
4. ____ Cyclists will ride more than 1100 kilometers through eight communities.
5. ____ The race began in Edmonton and will end in Calgary.
6. ____ Race organizers hope to have another race like this next year.

Discussion Questions

Do you enjoy cycling? What are some of the benefits of cycling for our health and for the environment?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

summit (meeting of leaders of countries)	economy (management of resources)
civil war (a war between 2 groups in 1 country)	taking over (dominating, using most of the time)
accused (charged with a crime)	attack (to hit or destroy)
support (agree with)	refuse (deny, not allow)
	take part (participate)

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

G – 20: Group of 20 major economies (19 countries and the European Union)

military strike: a military plan to attack a specific target

chemical weapons: weapons that use chemicals to kill or hurt humans

1. The G-20 _____ was held in Mexico last year. Only countries with the largest GDP (gross domestic product) _____ in this international meeting. At this meeting the leaders discuss the world's _____.
2. When there is a _____ in one country, should other countries try to help? How can outsiders (other countries) choose which side to _____?
3. When a person is _____ of a crime, the police must provide evidence.
4. The child _____ to eat the vegetables on his plate.
5. When one child _____ another child, parents should quickly stop the fighting.
6. In group discussions, often one student _____ the conversation because he or she has the most knowledge on the subject, or likes to talk the most.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Where is the G-20 summit being held this year?
2. What issue is taking over the discussion this year?
3. What does Barak Obama want to happen in Syria?
4. What are Bashar Al-Assad's forces accused of?
5. Who is Russian President Vladimir Putin supporting?
6. What does Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper say is Canada's position?

Discussion Questions

If there is a civil war in one country, should other countries get involved? When is it okay for other countries to help? What kind of help should they offer (military/healthcare)?

Language Focus

Identifying phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs – two words together that act as one verb. Phrasal verbs are most commonly made up of a verb and a preposition. Phrasal verbs often confuse students because the words together can have a different meaning than the two separate words they are made up of.

For example:

Work out - to exercise

- to find a solution to a problem

The word *work* means to use force to produce or change something. The word *out* is a preposition showing the opposite of *in*. Together these two words have two very different meanings.

In the three stories this week, we heard the following phrasal verbs. The meanings of the phrasal verbs were explained in the vocabulary activities. Do you remember their meanings?

left alone -

show up -

check on -

kick off -

take over -

take part -

Look at the following phrasal verbs. Do you know what they mean? Try to guess. *Answers are in the appendix*

1. ask out – _____

2. break up – _____

3. bring back – _____

4. carry on – _____

5. call off – _____

6. chip in – _____

7. dress up – _____

8. find out – _____

9. get along with – _____

10. get back at – _____

11. get together – _____

12. give up – _____

13. grow up – _____

14. look something up – _____

15. leave someone out – _____

16. make up something - _____

Transcripts of weekly news stories

	SEPTEMBER 6 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon and you're listening to Learning English with CBC for September 6 th .	0:00
Story 1	An Edmonton woman says she was left alone on the floor of her seniors home for nine hours after her home-care worker did not show up. 87 year old Marie Chamberland has lung cancer and poor eyesight. Over the Labour Day long weekend, she fell out of bed and no one checked on her. The home-care worker is employed by the private company CBI Home Health. Opposition parties say this shows the province's process of choosing new agencies to provide home-care earlier this year was flawed from the start.	0:10
Story 2	The first ever Tour of Alberta kicked off in Edmonton this week. It's the first time an international professional cycling stage race has ever been held in Canada. Over 6 days, riders will travel 800 kilometres through 11 urban and rural communities, ending in Calgary. Some of the world's best cyclists are taking part. Race organizers hope to hold a second Tour of Alberta next year.	0:51
Story 3	The G-20 summit has started in Russia. International leaders are meeting to talk about the world economy, but this year the civil war in Syria is taking over the discussion. U.S. President Barack Obama wants a military strike against the Syrian government. Bashar Al-Assad's forces are accused of killing hundreds of people in a chemical weapons attack. Russian President Vladimir Putin is supporting Syria, and refusing to allow military action. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said Canada will not take part in a military strike. Harper is trying to keep the focus of the G-20 Summit on the economy.	1:24

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
e	1. senior	a) not working well; lacking in quality or quantity
h	2. show up	b) order or organization in which something is done
a	3. poor	c) to be given a job by a specific company
j	4. checked on	d) to give; to make available
c	5. employed	e) elder or older person (over the age of 65)
i	6. private	f) companies
b	7. process	g) having many problems
f	8. agencies	h) to arrive or visit
d	9. provide	i) not owned by the government
g	10. flawed	j) look at to make sure everything is okay

Listening

1. An Edmonton woman says she was alone on the floor for nine hours _____.	a) after her home-care worker did not show up. b) after her home-care worker left her house.
2. Marie Chamberland, who is _____ years old, lives in a seniors home.	a) 78 b) 87
3. Marie Chamberland has lung cancer and _____.	a) very little money b) poor eyesight
4. Over the Labour Day long weekend, she fell out of bed and _____.	a) the home-care worker left her house. b) no one checked on her.
5. The home-care worker is employed by the _____ CBI Home Health.	a) private company b) well-known agency
6. Earlier this year, the province chose new agencies to provide home-care services. Opposition parties say _____.	a) this process was flawed from the start. b) this process began with flaws but is now okay.

News story 2

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
e	1) kicked off	a) city downtown
c	2) professional	b) bike riders bicycle athletes

a	3) urban	c) highly skilled employed
f	4) rural	d) global people from around the world
b	5) cyclists	e) started began
g	6) organizers	f) countryside village
d	7) international	g) creators managers

Listening

1. F Tour of Alberta begins next week.
2. F This is not the first international professional cycling race held in Canada.
3. T Tour of Alberta is a six day race.
4. F Cyclists will ride more than 1100 kilometers through eight communities.
5. T The race began in Edmonton and will end in Calgary.
6. T Race organizers hope to have another race like this next year.

News story 3

Vocabulary

1. The G-20 summit was held in Mexico last year. Only countries with the largest GDP (gross domestic product) take part in this international meeting.
At this meeting the leaders discuss the world's economy.
2. When there is a civil war in one country, should other countries try to help? How can outsiders choose which side to support ?
3. When a person is accused of a crime, the police must provide evidence.
4. The child refused to eat the vegetables on his plate.
5. When one child attacks another child, parents should quickly stop the fighting.
6. In group discussions, often one student takes over the conversation because he or she has the most knowledge on the subject, or likes to talk the most.

Listening

1. Where is the G-20 summit being held this year? *In Russia*
2. What issue is taking over the discussion this year? *The civil war in Syria is taking over.*
3. What does Barak Obama want to happen in Syria? *Obama wants a military strike against the Syrian government.*

4. What are Bashar Al-Assad's forces accused of? *They are accused of killing hundreds of people in a chemical weapons attack.*
5. Who is Russian President Putin supporting? *Putin is supporting Syria and is refusing to allow military action.*
6. What does Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper say is Canada's position? *Canada will not take part in a military strike.*

Language Focus

left alone - *to have no one around you; to be all alone*

show up - *to visit or stop by unexpectedly*

check on - *to look at to make sure everything is okay*

kick off - *to start or begin*

take over - *to dominate, to use most of the time*

take part - *to participate*

Other phrasal verbs

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ask out – <i>to ask someone on a date</i> | 9. get along with – <i>to be friendly with</i> |
| 2. break up – <i>to separate from someone</i> | 10. get back at – <i>to take revenge</i> |
| 3. bring back – <i>to return something</i> | 11. get together – <i>to join with others</i> |
| 4. carry on – <i>to continue</i> | 12. give up – <i>to stop trying to do something</i> |
| 5. call off – <i>to cancel</i> | 13. grow up – <i>to become more mature</i> |
| 6. chip in – <i>to pay a little bit towards a large cost</i> | 14. look something up – <i>to use a dictionary to find a definition</i> |
| 7. dress up – <i>to put on nice/fancy clothes</i> | 15. leave someone out – <i>to not allow someone to participate</i> |
| 8. find out – <i>to discover</i> | 16. make up something – <i>to create a story or a lie</i> |